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IV. — *The Philological Association of the Pacific Coast*

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AT its meeting in San Francisco a month ago the Association adopted the following resolution :

Resolved, that through our official delegate we extend heartiest greetings to the American Philological Association on the occasion of its semi-centennial meeting. The happy arrangement recently concluded with the American Philological Association and the Modern Language Association is giving large satisfaction; and the Philological Association of the Pacific Coast appreciates deeply the sympathetic coöperation of the parent associations, which is helping so much toward the present solid alignment of literary scholarship in the west. It pledges every effort to advance the interests of the cause in this section of the country.

Having been a member of the western society since its foundation, and having the honor to be the official delegate on this semi-centennial occasion, I wish to add my personal greetings and congratulations. The "sympathetic coöperation" mentioned in the resolution has been the attitude of the American Philological Association from the beginning. We owe much, more indeed than we can well put into words, to the parent organization — our ancient mother, as it were — and we shall not fail in gratitude and appreciation.

The organization of a branch of the Association in the Far West was first of all in answer to geographical conditions. The Pacific Coast, as everyone is aware, notwithstanding improved transportation, is remote from the East, and scholars who went thither were virtually cut off from personal contact with their former associates and their former places of inspiration and study. A partial remedy for this isolation was to utilize the resources of the Coast itself, and it was this which those interested in the proposed society attempted to

do. For active membership they could count not only on the University of California and Stanford University, but also on the adjacent state universities and several small colleges. The time was also propitious in that comparatively speaking there was a great interest in language and literature, which were still the staples of the non-professional education. Latin and Greek, at the time I speak of, actually flourished in the West, and everywhere there was a feeling of encouragement and confidence among those who professed literary subjects.

The start toward organization was made in 1898 at a meeting of the University of California Greek Club, which appointed a committee consisting of Professors E. B. Clapp of California, E. M. Pease of Stanford, and E. F. Burrill of the Oakland High School to take preliminary steps. The first meeting, held under the auspices of the committee and attended by about 75 persons, began December 25th of the following year. It adopted a constitution, carried out a program of twenty papers, and took measures looking to affiliation with the American Philological Association. This connection was arranged within the next year, and the society was set on its way as the western branch of the national body. Since then, it has held its stated meetings without interruption, even attempting two sessions a year for a brief period.¹ The membership has varied from about 70 to 112. For the current year there have been 98 paying members. The annual dues have been increased to \$3.50, of which \$1.00 is retained for local expenses.

In the terms of the affiliation it was arranged to grant us space in the annual volume to the extent of 20 pages of *Transactions* and 15 of *Proceedings*. In practice the amount printed has varied according to circumstances, the average being 16 pages of *Transactions* and 18 of *Proceedings*, a grand total of 635 pages. At first the papers to be printed were chosen by the eastern Executive Committee from a group of

¹ The years 1913 and 1914.

five selected by our Committee, the unused contributions being sent back to the local secretary to be returned by him to their authors. These unused contributions entailed personal embarrassments, so that the selection came to be made by the local Committee. Two years ago it was agreed to leave the whole matter of selection in the hands of the Executive Committee in the East, the papers being directly submitted to it by the writers. In this way, so far as the appearance of their work in the *Transactions* is concerned, all members — eastern and western alike — are placed on an equality. Abstracts — I am sorry to say — are no longer printed.

These recent changes are items in the general revision of our relations with the parent association necessitated by our secondary affiliation with the Modern Language Association. From the beginning, the modern language men have made up at least one half of our membership and have contributed slightly more than one half of the papers on our programs. In recent years many of them have felt it would be more profitable to receive the volume of their own national association and to print their abstracts there. To comply with this desire, a plan of double affiliation has been worked out and has been put into operation. In the year just passed, out of a paid-up membership of 98, 45 received the volume of the Modern Language Association, while 12 (paying double dues) received both volumes. This arrangement, arrived at after much discussion, has its disadvantages and involves sacrifices on the part of the parent organization; but it holds together in one organization all those on the Coast interested in literary and linguistic studies, whether ancient or modern. To me this seems a tremendous gain. It gives us the numbers necessary to a vigorous organization, adds variety to our programs, and promotes the correlation of the ancient and modern fields which is of supreme importance to both. Indeed I can hardly conceive of such an organization as ours having a really prosperous career without the participation and coöperation of the men on the modern language side.

This is my personal opinion; that it is also that of the Pacific Coast body itself may be seen from the resolution (which I have already read) adopted at the recent meeting in San Francisco. I will add that the arrangement with the Modern Language Association was made possible by the sympathetic understanding of our problems on the part of the parent association.

This interest in all that concerns us encourages me (without further reference to matters of organization) to dwell for a moment, in a little more intimate way, on the working of our organization. Those who remember the older San Francisco may perhaps recall the two residences that overlooked the city from the top of Nob Hill, one the home of Leland Stanford and the other that of his business associate, Mark Hopkins. Both buildings were eventually turned to academic uses, the second becoming (as part of the University of California) the San Francisco Institute of Fine Arts. In this building our society was organized, and in it (and its successor after the fire) most of our meetings have been held. In the old days it was rather an imposing structure with a collection of paintings and a flourishing art school. We felt a certain splendor there (not unwelcome to our austere lives) and breathed a characteristically Californian atmosphere of artistic endeavor and achievement. It was not an unfitting place for us (imagination was at work also even in our dull disquisitions), and it is not surprising that it has associations for us. It is something merely to have climbed that splendid hill in the November sunshine with city and bay spread out before the eyes.

This has been the scene of our regular sessions; for the evening meeting we are indebted to the University Club of San Francisco, which is just across the way and which for several years has offered its hospitality to all our attending members. These evening sessions have turned out to be most enjoyable. The club usually places one of its smaller dining rooms at our disposal, and it is arranged that all who

desire to do so shall dine here. The places, as a rule, are all taken and later in the evening a number come in who have dined elsewhere. When dinner is finished, the president, from the head of the table, reads the annual address, which is then informally discussed. Then follow several brief talks on different subjects. On one occasion, when the president's theme had been the scholar in literature, the remainder of the evening was taken up in personal reminiscences of great scholars. These gatherings, small enough to be intimate and personal, are for us long remembered occasions.

It may also be of interest to know something of the character of the papers our Association has called out at these annual meetings. I can say for one thing they have not been after the fashion of the philological essay, meaning by this term the presentation of what is known about some topic of more or less general interest. On the contrary, the papers almost uniformly have had their motive in the author's own research and have aimed at adding to existing knowledge. I do not say they have always succeeded; or, even when they did, that the results were important. All I wish to emphasize is, that whatever value the work may have had in itself, it at least had the merit of being a treatment of the subject at first hand. The presidential addresses,² though supposedly

² I append the list of titles, noting that the practice of giving the address began in 1901. The address (for different reasons) was omitted in 1903, 1905, and 1908.

1901 — Flügel, E., *The History of English Philology and Its Problems.*

1902 — Gayley, C. M., *What is Comparative Literature?*

1904 — Merrill, W. A., *On the Problem of Literary Influence as Illustrated by the Relations of Horace to Lucretius.*

1906 — Clapp, E. B., *The Mind of Pindar.*

1907 — Fairclough, H. R., *Virgil.*

1909 — Matzke, J. E., *The Development and Present State of Romanic Dialectology.*

1910 — Bradley, C. B., *Scenes from Siamese Legend and Life.*

1911 — Hempl, G., *The Etruscan Question and its Relation to the Study of Philology.*

1912 — Richardson, L. J., *Some Observations on Vergil's *Georgics*.*

1913 — Searles, C., *French Assimilation of Aristotle's Poetic Art.*

less technical and making a wider appeal, have also in the great majority of cases had this quality of research, and not seldom (as in Professor Johnston's "Origin of the Old French Feudal Epic") have contained new and far-reaching conclusions. Again, our programs as a whole have been made up of papers on quite unrelated subjects. We have never attempted the method of selecting a special topic to be discussed by different specialists either for the purpose of bringing together the latest results in the particular field, or with the pedagogic intent of imparting useful information. Indeed, I must confess, useful information on these occasions is about the least of our concerns, knowing how much of it we have safely at home in the encyclopedia. What really draws us is, I think, the pleasure of witnessing and participating in the solution of intellectual problems. I suspect that at bottom this is an aesthetic pleasure, but whatever it is one rejoices mightily even in the humbler triumphs of the human mind. And so it is that we have given welcome to any piece of honest work, taking little account of the department to which it belonged or whether it related to an ancient or modern theme, promising applause if it were well done and friendly counsel if it were incomplete or inconclusive.

There are certain lines of scholarship, to speak specifically, in which we have had few contributions. I will mention first the subject of textual criticism, in which I find only some half dozen titles. The number of papers in Palaeography and Epigraphy is also small. In the latter category I include Hempl's paper on the Tell el Amarna texts³ which was presented to our Association in 1912, and appeared in the *Transactions* in 1913, thus antedating by five years the publi-

1914 — Allen, J. T., *The Romantic Aeschylus*.

1915 — Elmore, J., *Tacitus and Some Roman Ideals*.

1916 — Hart, W. M., *A Vanishing Type*.

1917 — Johnston, O. M., *Origin of the Old French Feudal Epic*.

1918 — Chinard, G., *Literature and International Misinterpretation*.

1919 — Nutting, H. G., *The Humanity of the Ancients*.

³ "The Old Doric of the Tell el Amarna Texts."

cation of Hrozný's investigations. The fewness of papers in these subjects, while no doubt indicating a trend of interest, is not an altogether accurate measure, since contributions of this kind are more often published in other places. Thus Professor Merrill's numerous and suggestive Lucretian emendations, of which he gave some specimens at our meetings, have appeared elsewhere. In grammar our predilection has been for syntax (15 titles in all), though morphology has not been altogether neglected. Following this in point of frequency have been special studies relating to historical episodes or customs or institutions. Our main interest has been in literature, especially in problems having to do with particular authors. More than half of all the papers presented in the twenty-one years (335 in number) could be included in this category.

What, then, are the prospects on the Pacific Coast? In the modern languages, for obvious reasons, they could hardly be better. As to our own work, our resources in the way of books and other working apparatus are increasing year by year; but it would seem that the outlook depends in the end on the struggle to retain Latin and Greek as vital subjects in the college curriculum. They have suffered much from the propaganda of professional educationists exploiting a shallow philosophy of education, and also from the hordes of undergraduates unwilling to be taught anything except vocation. In the West, however, we are conscious of a well-marked revival of the idea of liberal education, and in the continued progress and ultimate success of this movement lies, I think, our hope.